

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 01144 131656Z

65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 416

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CFED, SZ

SUBJECT: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY

1. PRESIDENT UPPER HOUSE PARLIAMENT ANNOUNCED AT END MARCH 13 SESSION, THAT JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY (WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION ON AGENDA MARCH 19) WOULD NOT COME UP ON UPPER HOUSE AGENDA THIS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. PRESS BRIEFLY REPORTED THAT CONSIDERATION WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL JUNE SESSION.

2. WE ASKED SECRETARY GENERAL SWISS PARLIAMENT WHY CONSIDERATION JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY POSTPONED. HE SAID THAT THE UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD CONSIDERED TREATY, HAD "TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL" QUESTIONS CONCERNING TREATY AND, GIVEN CROWDED PARLIAMENTARY SCHEDULE TAKEN UP WITH ABORTION LAW, ADHERENCE TO IEA, DEBATE ON PENSIONS, AND NECESSITY CONSIDER GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY REPORT, THERE WAS INADEQUATE TIME FOR UPPER HOUSE DEAL WITH TREATY IN THIS SESSION.

3. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ANY OTHER REASONS BEHIND POSTPONEMENT, IF ANY.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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